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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicants hereby attaches U.S. Patent Office Form PTOL-1449, including a copy of the prior art reference listed therein. This reference is discussed in the specification. Please note the editor is --Van Nostrand Reinhold Publishing Company-- not "Chapman and Hall" as indicated in the specification. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over this reference.

This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitute prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

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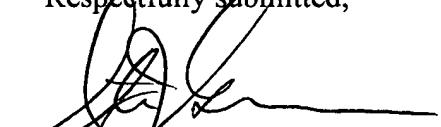
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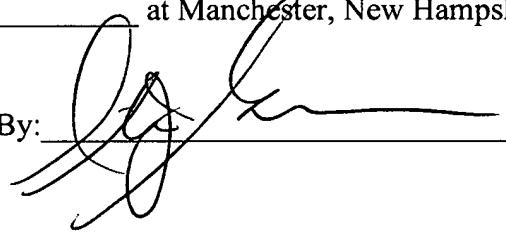
In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,


Steven J. Grossman
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 35,001

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on 4-23-01 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By: 

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